

NEWS FROM
SENATOR TIM JOHNSON,

SENATOR JOHN THUNE,

REPRESENTATIVE STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julianne Fisher, 202-224-1638

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Andi Fouberg, 202-228-5381

Betsy Hart, 202-226-8555

SD Delegation Pushes for Strong Funding for Lewis and Clark, Mni Wiconi During Meeting with OMB Director

Washington, D.C. - Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD), Senator John Thune (R-SD) and Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-SD) today met with Peter Orszag, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, to push the Administration to properly fund the Lewis and Clark and Mni Wiconi Rural Water Systems for the 2011 Fiscal Year.

"I appreciate Director Orszag meeting with the delegation today during what is a very busy time. Congress has made great strides in funding Lewis and Clark and Mni Wiconi over the years,

and it is important that the Administration keeps them moving forward during the next fiscal year. These projects serve very different parts of the state, but completion of each is absolutely critical to strengthening the state's economy and improving the quality of life in South Dakota," said Johnson.

"The delivery of clean, reliable water is critical to the success of many communities in South Dakota," said Thune. "I will work closely with the other members of the delegation and the Administration to see to it that the major water projects currently underway in South Dakota are completed in a timely and efficient manner. Water infrastructure development is a key component of economic growth in rural America, and I want to make sure that rural issues remain in the focus of policy makers in Washington," said Thune.

"Lewis and Clark and Mni Wiconi are essential drinking water systems for South Dakota and I'm proud to continue to work with the delegation to advocate for continued strong federal funding for these projects and the communities they serve. Rural water systems are critical to encouraging economic development across South Dakota and today I shared with Director Orszag the importance of strong annual funding to maintain progress and minimize cost in the long-term. As the Administration continues its work in crafting the budget for the upcoming year, I appreciate the opportunity to share with the importance of Lewis and Clark and Mni Wiconi to South Dakota and our region as a whole," said Herseth Sandlin.

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